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15 October 1963

# South Vietnam SUMMARY



State Department review completed

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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GROUP 1  
Excluded from  
automatic downgrading  
and declassification

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THE SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM  
(Information as of 1000 EDT)

1. Dam Sy Hien, a South Vietnamese labor leader arrested on 7 October, was released today. The president of his union yesterday had threatened to call for international labor support and court arrest himself if Hien was not released.

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3. The new South Vietnamese ambassador to Washington, Do Vang Ly, in an informal call at the Department of State 12 October, said he hoped the US would ignore Nhu and let him "erase" himself. He hinted his instructions were to keep his distance from top US officials for the time being and take a passive role pending further "dialogue" in Saigon. He said he intends to study the situation as it appears from Washington for about six weeks, and then return home to plead with Diem for a reform program; he implied he was open to specific suggestions as to what reforms the US would want.

4. Press reports from Saigon state that an indigenous employee of the US AID mission, an interpreter in the rural affairs section, had been arrested.

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